

Easton Village Newsletter

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NATURE NOTES 36



Brian Davis

I saw Long-tailed tits collecting material for nest building at the very beginning of March and feeding young today, the 21st. They don't nest in holes in trees like other tits but make a beautiful domed nest with its own side entrance hole, usually in a dense bush – in this case our Ceanothus. Hedge-nesting birds will be biding their time until the leaves offer complete privacy. A lot of work was done at Monks Wood back in the 1960s on the best kinds of hedges for birds. A study of over 21,000 yards of hedges in Huntingdonshire showed the following average number of pairs and species per thousand yards: a remnant hedge with scattered bushes had 4.4 pairs and 5 species (including Corn-buntings), a

recently laid hedge 6.5 pairs and 8 species, a well-clipped, low hedge 9.3 pairs with 7 species, an unclipped stock-proof hedge 15.1 pairs with 9 species, while an unclipped hedge with brambles or other outgrowths around the base was by far the richest with 33.9 pairs and 15 species per 1,000 yards, including 11 pairs of Blackbirds, and 6 pairs each of Song-thrushes, Turtle doves, Yellow-hammers, Linnets and Whitethroats, plus 1 to 3 pairs of Wrens, Goldfinches, Blackcaps, Garden warblers, Lesser whitethroats and Sedge warblers not recorded in any of the other hedge types. Easton used to have a lot more hedges in the mid-1960s than now including this last kind when there were a series of narrow grass fields behind our garden where the horse paddocks are now. Several of these birds are uncommon anywhere around Easton nowadays. Anyone for a dawn chorus walk around the village in early May?

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

RBL Kimbolton is presenting an evening of "The Soldiers' Life in Afghanistan" at the Lewis Hall in Kimbolton School on Friday 4th April at 7pm. Guest speakers and presentations will be from the Royal Anglian Regiment and Harrier pilots who have just returned from quite an ordeal in Afghanistan. All of them will be presenting "first hand" their battlefield experiences. One of the speakers has left Kimbolton School only recently. It is hoped that Ross Kemp will also make an appearance. Tickets for the event can be obtained from The Framery, The Saddle or Landings, or to make it easy, John Hill has a number for sale (tel. 896444). The cost? Just £6 and that includes a meal. The end of evening entertainment includes music and a licensed bar and all proceeds for the evening are towards the Royal Anglian Afghan Memorial Fund. Please give us - and the Royal Anglians - your full support. We are hoping for 200 plus to attend this unforgettable evening.

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday Services during April are:

6 th April	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
13 th April	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
20 th April	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
27 th April	-	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist

The PCC would like to thank everyone who helped to decorate the Church for Easter. As usual, it looked beautiful and we are very grateful for all the work that was put in.

The Easter Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings will take place on Thursday 10th April 2008 at 8.00 p.m. in the Church. All are welcome to attend and everyone on the *Church electoral roll* may vote to elect the Parochial Church Council for the coming year. Anyone who *lives* in the village may elect the Churchwardens.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO THE CHURCH BUILDING

The PCC has received the Faculty from the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the alterations to the church. This means that we can now seek quotations from builders for the work and start to look for grants towards the costs. A note from the Steering Committee will be sent to everyone in due course.